

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-9. (canceled)

10. (new) A device (2) for separating magnetic particles, comprising a plurality of substantially aligned magnets (3), wherein some of the magnets (3) are inversely oriented.

11. (new) A separating device as defined in claim 10, in which about half of the magnets (3) are inversely oriented.

12. (new) A separating device as defined in claim 11, in which substantially every second magnet (3) is inversely oriented.

13. (new) A separating device as defined in claim 10, in which magnets (3) are disposed in several rows of several magnets.

14. (new) A separating device as defined in claim 10, in which the magnets (5) are united to form one single piece (2).

15. (new) A separating device as defined in claim 10, in which the magnets (3) are permanent magnets whose length/diameter ratio is at least about 2:1.

16. (new) An apparatus (1) for separating magnetic particles, comprising a vertically movable separating device (2) including several substantially aligned magnets (3), wherein some of the magnets (3) are inversely oriented.

17. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 16, comprising a well-like casing (8) for insertion of each magnet (3).

18. (new) An apparatus as defined in claim 17, in which the casings (8) are united to form one single piece (7).